

RESOLUTION NUMBER 149
HONORING MELLVE A. SHAHID, SR.

WHEREAS, Mellve A. Shahid, Sr., a fourteen year prostate cancer survivor, is the Founder and Board President of the Empowerment Network, Inc. in St. Louis, MO. In 2005, he retired from the Chrysler Corporation after thirty-two years of service; and

WHEREAS, while at Chrysler he founded Unique Painting and Decorating which has been operating successfully for the past thirty-three years. In March 2007, after having no sick days in his life, he was diagnosed with Stage 2 prostate cancer and given two years to live; and

WHEREAS, he recounts his story, “On the operating table, I asked God to heal my body, restore my health and give me a second chance. I promised to fight prostate cancer and advocate for victims and survivors. I begged for my Life. All I want to do is keep my promise to God. I just want to be a helper and humble servant to those who need my help”. It was a pledge, a covenant, a divine oath. He believes in his vision and says he would give his Life for this cause. Shahid says God has answered his prayer; and

WHEREAS, Shahid developed The Empowerment Network (TEN) in February 2008 on his basement floor with his late Co-Founder, Isadore Wayne. Both being cancer survivors, they created what they could not find in their neighborhood...a source for information about prostate cancer. Within months, TEN grew to over one-hundred men. In 2009 and 2010, respectively, TEN was the American Cancer Society’s Harold P. Freeman Award recipient for establishing its Cancer Education and Information Center and creating a monthly Support Group for survivors in the community. Today, TEN has nearly six hundred members; and

WHEREAS, Shahid’s vision led him to produce a weekly radio program on a local AM station. It began in 2008 and went on hiatus in 2017. It was a live, call-in format with invited guests from the medical, financial and survivor community. The listener ship approached 25,000 weekly by the end of the eighth year; and

WHEREAS, prostate cancer was raised to the state level in 2008. Shahid’s desire to share knowledge about prostate cancer with all men in the state began with a conversation with a State Legislator who filed a bill to identify, treat and track uninsured and underinsured men aged 35+ years of age. The focus was to determine the prevalence of prostate cancer in the state in order to create a program of intervention. After several iterations in the House, the bill was passed in the Senate and became law in 2011.

WHEREAS, for the past twelve years, Shahid has received yearly awards and recognitions for his involvement in broadcasting the scourge of prostate cancer in the community and creating strategic medical, corporate, public and university partnerships that broaden that message in the St. Louis region. As a true leader, he first sees the need, envisions the plan and then empowers the team to action. His advocacy has led to thousands of men on a grassroots level being exposed to vital information about prostate health. The team sponsors prostate cancer walks, health fairs, and church tours where education and free PSA testing are provided; and

WHEREAS, Shahid believes that *love and service* transforms the lives of men who are wounded and in pain into men of valor and courage, fighting back with their time, efforts and energy helps them to become servants and educators to newly diagnosed. This is the basis of our venture into providing mental health resources. TEN theorizes that “*our helping becomes our psychological and emotional healing*”; and

WHEREAS, in the past five years, TEN has participated in 448 outreach events, provided PSA tests for 1,423 men, counselled 4,786 men, had 1,309 attendees at Support Group meetings and received 209 referrals from physicians. These statistics are the very essence of the needs Shahid has addressed since his pledge to God in 2007.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to recognize Mr. Mellve A. Shahid, Sr. for his many contributions and achievements. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy to the end that it may be presented to the honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 10th day of December, 2021 by:
The Honorable Pamela Boyd, Alderwoman 27th Ward
The Honorable Lewis Reed, President Board of Aldermen

Adopted this 10th day of December, 2021as attested by

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen